

THE ALMA RECORD.

VOL. XXXVI—NO. 38

ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 3, 1914

WHOLE NUMBER 1864

TAXES LESS THIS YEAR

In Spite of Higher Assessment.

RATE 1 PER CENT LESS THAN '13

\$66,649.80 is the Total Tax for the Four Wards

As previously reported in the Record the tax assessment for this year will be much higher than it was for last year, but this large increase will of course be offset to a large extent by a much decreased tax rate, so that in reality the amount which is to be raised in Alma for 1914 is actually less than was raised last year by taxes.

In 1913 \$73,124.83 was the total tax excepting small special assessments which were made for special services. This year the corresponding amount will be \$66,649.80. Taxes will be nearly seven thousand dollars less this year than last. In 1913 the rate was \$34.05 on every \$1,000 of property, personal or real, this year it is to be \$24.06. Thus they will be practically one percent less. The taxes are divided by wards as follows:

Total Ass't	\$822,620.00
Total Tax	19,792.19
Total Ass't	\$975,110.00
Total Tax	\$23,461.16
Total Ass't	\$314,365.00
Total Tax	\$7,563.63
Total Ass't	\$658,055.00
Total Tax	\$15,832.82

For the whole city of Alma the assessment and total tax would be:
Total Ass't \$2,770,150.00
Total Tax \$66,649.80

The second board of equalization for the county met at Ithaca last week and completed their work Saturday night, and forwarded the tax lists to the city clerk and township clerks. These are being prepared and will be ready within a short time.

The Board made only one change in the whole list of Alma property assessments, raising the total of the third ward by a scant five dollars. This in a total assessment of the whole of over two and three quarter million dollars is rather small.

WINDOW DISPLAY GOOD

Ellison's Grocery Display Window a Model of Good Taste.

Ellison's Grocery and Mr. Lawrence Ellison in particular are to be congratulated upon the appearance of the three windows which face on Superior and State streets, and which contain very artistic and attractive displays. One window contains a fine display of a staple table delicacy, with which Mr. Ellison received some assistance from the representative of the firm, but the decorating on the other two windows was done entirely by himself, and would rank with the best which large dealers in the big cities have done in their show windows.

It is a marked asset to a business firm these days to possess a display man with the ability of Mr. Ellison. However, his work is rivalled by other dealers in the city, for advertising preparations for the holiday trade were never more complete or more tastefully done than they have been this year.

RED CROSS FUND.

THE RED CROSS Fund for the aid of suffering Europe, is established in Alma. The first order of yarn is here and the committee is at work distributing it. However, more money is needed to carry on the work.

The season for giving and receiving is close at hand and here in peaceful America we cannot imagine the sorrow and desolation of thousands who need our aid. Won't you sacrifice something and help in the greatest need the world has ever known?

Please make this a personal matter. Even the smallest contribution will be appreciated.

Fund boxes have been placed in the drug-stores, East-Side Grocery and depot.

Knitted and crocheted articles and money will be sent from Alma to RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS on January 1st, 1915.

BERNICE POLLASKY, First Ward. MARY SHARP, Second Ward. SADIE MESSINGER, Third Ward. ELIZABETH KING, Fourth Ward.

OBITUARY.

Robert C., the eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. William Stitt, was born in Newark township, June 13, 1881 and died at the home of his parents, Nov. 24, 1914, at the age of 33 years after a number of years of suffering. He had been an invalid for the past four years in which he bore with great patience his suffering.

He leaves a mother, father, two sisters, Mrs. Luan Cumberworth, and Mary, two brothers, R. K. Stitt of Bay City and T. B. Stitt of Gwinn. Robert was a young man of sterling worth and excellent character with a disposition full of sunshine. With a pleasant word for everyone he made friends wherever he went. Though cut off in the prime of early manhood his influence will be felt for years to come by those whose pleasure it was to know him in life, as he was a man in whose word implicit confidence was placed and whose daily life was above reproach or criticism. The flowers were beautiful and were sent by the I. O. O. F. of Alma and Pompeii, T. B. and B. N. Creaser of Middleton; from the freshman class of Alma college, Philomatheans and from friends and neighbors.

The funeral was held at the house Thursday at 10 o'clock, conducted by Rev. Food of M. E. of St. and under the order of I. O. O. F. The remains were laid to rest in the Fulton Center cemetery. The whole family received the sympathy of the entire community.

CHANGE MEETING NIGHT

K. of P. Meet Every Thursday Evening Instead of Monday

BANQUET GIVEN BI-WEEKLY

Each Committee will Serve One Banquet During Winter

By a vote of the Knights of Pythias lodge at the last meeting it was decided to change the night of meeting from Monday night of each week to Thursday night of each week and the members were notified of the change. As the long evenings are here and the time for good lodge work and good social time is at hand, the following proposition has been decided upon and put in operation.

The membership of the lodge living in and near the city have been divided into ten committees of ten members each, and each committee is to furnish and prepare a fine banquet and entertainment during the next six months. The first banquet is to be given Thursday night, Dec. 10, which is the annual election night. After the ten committees had been appointed, numbers were drawn to see when each committee's turn, to entertain should be, with the following results. A banquet every two weeks commencing Thursday night, Dec. 10, by committee No. 1 with Ezra L. Smith, as chairman, P. M. Smith, A. R. Smith, Chas. H. Smith, Robert H. Smith, John A. Smith, Martin J. Smith and C. H. Smith, the farmer, and the other committees to follow later in their regular order. Each committee will have \$5.00 from the lodge funds and the balance of the expense of their banquet and entertainment is to be made up by the committee.

The first rank fee for each new member secured by any of the committees will be credited to the committee bringing in the petition and will be paid over to the committee at the time their banquet is served.

This is a very interesting and inviting arrangement and it is expected that the members of Fitz-James lodge will be partaking of some very elaborate spreads during the next twenty weeks.

If a member misses one banquet, he lacks just that much of getting even with the other fellows or what he has to put up for them.

The committees are as follows:
No. 1.—E. L. Smith, A. R. Smith, Robt. Smith, C. H. Smith, P. M. Smith, M. J. Smith, J. A. Smith, Farmer C. H. Smith.

No. 2.—John Luchini, W. E. Baker, A. E. Whiton, C. H. Breece, G. C. Gulick, J. E. Wiggins, G. H. Anderson, Archie Brown, Lewis Keith, G. A. Brown.

No. 3.—W. A. Howlett, Otto Hawley, Harry Tubbs, M. J. McPhee, F. O. Grover, M. E. Root, C. S. Hulse, J. Barney, V. A. Miner, H. Hubbard.

No. 4.—B. J. Arnsden, G. J. Maier, W. Bainbridge, Ralph Bushee, Victor Reach, Will Bittner, E. B. Berman, F. Nindorf, C. N. Crist.

No. 5.—J. P. Losey, Howard Hoyt, Otis Wilbur, H. J. Winchell, C. F. Hickok, Geo. McMullen, J. D. Spinney, G. B. Porter, E. T. Lamb, Frank Dietz.

No. 6.—Will Knudson, Caris Brown,

POPULATION OF ALMA IS 4,366. INCREASE OF 58 PER CENT OVER 1910

Accurate Canvass Shows that the Alma Record Enters Five Out of Eight Homes—Big Boost in Population Due to Many Causes.

During the past four years, or since the national census was taken in 1910, Alma has increased in population 50 per cent, and at present the population is four thousand three hundred and sixty-six. During the month of September Mr. E. E. Pettyjohn in behalf of the Alma Record, visited every home in the city and gathered accurate data as to the number of persons living in Alma and the number of homes where the Record makes its weekly visit. The Record goes in to over five out of eight homes in Alma, and at present has the biggest circulation it has ever had in its history.

The first ward is the big ward in Alma at present, for in respect to population it is larger than all other three wards put together and it is nearly as large as the whole city of Alma was four years ago when the national census was taken. There are twenty-two hundred eighty-three people in that one section of the city alone. The second ward is about one-third as large, having a population of seven hundred fifty-three and is followed very closely by the Fourth ward, which contains as residents seven hundred thirty-nine. The Third ward is the smallest of the four wards, for it has only five hundred ninety-four.

Probably those who are seeking empty houses for purchase or for rent can say the most about the scarcity of them, for it was found by accurate count that there are just thirty-one houses in the city which are vacant, though there are eight hundred forty all together. In other words, ninety-six per cent of the houses are filled. The same ward which has outdistanced the other wards so far in the matter of population, the Fourth, is also the one which has the most vacant homes, there being twelve in that ward. The second ward has but three, the Third seven, and the Fourth ward nine.

Though the First ward which is bounded by North State and East Su-

perior, has more people in it than all the others combined, it has only a few more than a third of the total number of homes. Families in this ward are much larger than they are in any of the other wards.

There are four times as many people in the First as in the Third ward, but only twice as many houses. Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt, who is a strong opponent of race suicide, wouldn't spend much time in deciding with which of the two wards his interests lay.

There are three hundred and twenty-seven homes in Ward No. 1, one hundred eighty-two in the Second, one hundred sixty-seven in the Third and one hundred sixty-four in the Fourth. Even the last named with three less homes has over one hundred more people in it than the third.

The taking of the census brought out some curious facts. There are five families in the city who have 11 members, though there are none of more members. In six families there are ten, while seven home groups are nine. There are just twice that number which have eight members.

Right along with the growth of the city in population has been the growth of the Record. When the census was taken in 1900 and again in 1910 approximately nine out of ten homes took the Record. The same was true of the last census which has been taken. Though there was already a large circulation in the city new subscribers were added by the tens and twenties and the city circulation of the Record was boosted several hundred.

During the ten years between 1900 and 1910 Alma increased in population one hundred ninety-one or seven per cent. During 1910 and 1914, just four years, it increased eight times as fast. The three sets of figures on Alma's numerical strength are as follows:

1900	2566
1910	2577
1914	4369

The reason for this phenomenal growth in population lies without a doubt in the unusual growth of Alma's industries and the increasing number of these industries. Since the national census was taken Libby, McNeil & Libby have built their modern factories here and have employed large numbers of men, the Republic Motor Truck Co. has been making great strides and is now one of the most promising automobile firms in the state, and Swift & Co. have greatly enlarged the capacity of their already large plant and have added the duck farm. The rapidly increasing business of the Home Lumber and Fuel Co., the Standard Foundry & Manufacturing Co. and the Alma plant of the Michigan Sugar Co., has also contributed its quota.

Probably the greatest factor of them all is the progressive spirit which pervades every enterprise and every business man who has the best interests of the city at heart. The women of the Civic League have fostered this spirit also and have rendered great services by insisting most persistently upon a more beautiful Alma. Every stranger seeking a residence in Alma has been accorded the heartiest welcome. Every honest enterprise which has sought a field of operation in Alma has found a community where the individual interests are always subordinated to the interests of the public and where "the best for the most" is the rule of action.

Alma citizens will watch with interest the growth of the city from 1914 to 1920. At the present rate of population increase only a hazardous guess could be made as to the number who will claim Alma as a residence in 1920.

Elsewhere in the Record will be found an affidavit sworn to by Mr. Pettyjohn that all of the above figures are absolutely correct.

They were in their early stage of development.

The officers of the local plant are confident that next year will see the finest sugar beet season that the farmers and company have yet enjoyed.

At present there seems to be one obstacle which may necessitate the early making of beet contracts, for the company will be restricted from procuring a large surplus of seed. The European war has ruined the industry in Germany and France and as all American beet sugar factories are dependent upon these countries for a supply of seed to furnish the farmers, the contract acreage may be forced to be limited. This fact may cause the company to receive only early applications. In this case it will be "the early bird gets the worm."

However, despite this obstacle which may present itself the 1915 season promises to be a bumper one for both the farmer and the company.

A SWORN STATEMENT

Alma, Mich., Sept. 30, 1914. This is to certify that I have completed a house to house canvass for subscriptions in the four wards of the city of Alma and find that the Alma Record enters five out of eight of the homes of Alma, I also took the census of the city of Alma and find the population to be forty three hundred and sixty six.

Chas. E. Pettyjohn
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of December A. D. 1914.

Carl H. Washburn.
Notary Public in and for Gratiot County, Mich., my commission expires Feb. 15, 1916.

AN UNEXPECTED GUEST

College Seniors to give that play Thursday Dec. 10th in college chapel. The dramatic talent in the senior class of the College will give the clever farce, "An Unexpected Guest" in the college chapel Thursday evening December 10th at eight o'clock. The cast have been carefully selected and well trained and the production promises to be to the best of the year.

Paul Austin, Margaret Allen, Clarence Goodrich and Bryson McCloy will play leading parts, while Joseph Kennedy an actor of great ability is coaching the players.

With such talent in the cast "An Unexpected Guest" should draw a large crowd. A nominal admission of twenty five cents will be charged with no reserved seats.

Mrs. W. D. Strong returned Wednesday to her home in Alma, after spending a few days with daughter, Mrs. A. R. Cleland.—St. Johns News.

GEORGE CULVER PASSES AWAY.

Mr. George Culver, whom we mentioned last week as being very sick, died last week Tuesday at the home of his daughter, Ada Leonard, where he has had his home for the last 14 years. Mr. Culver was born in Norwich, Conn., April 18th, 1834. He was married in 1854. One child was born to this union, Mrs. Nettie Kinne, of Norwich, Conn. His wife died in 1856. He came to Michigan and married Margaret Williams of Coe. To this union was born nine children, of which six survive—George Culver and Ada Leonard of Coe; Hattie Kingsbury of Shepherd; Luella Gimney of Mt. Pleasant; Eno Laws, of Carson; Ernest Culver of Ashley; also two sisters and two brothers, are left to mourn his loss. His second wife died May 24, 1898. Mr. Culver was baptized into the Church of Christ at Coe on Jan. 13, 1883, and lived a Christian life up to the time of his departure to the kingdom of God, Nov. 24, 1914. The funeral was held at the schoolhouse Saturday afternoon. Elder Keech conducted the services. The remains were laid to rest in the Coe cemetery beside those of his wife. The family extend their heartfelt thanks to the friends who assisted them at the time of his sickness and to the Ladies' Aid society for their beautiful floral offerings.

MUNICIPAL XMAS TREE

Alma Will Have Its First Municipal Tree

CHURCHES UNITE IN PROJECT

Splendid Enthusiasm for this Holiday Feature Being Shown.

Plans are under consideration among the various Sunday School organizations and the Civic League of the city for the holding of a Municipal Christmas Tree celebration on Christmas eve for the benefit of all of the little children of the city. The officers of the different Sunday schools are considering the plan and if it is approved by all of them Alma will have her first Municipal Christmas Tree.

If the proposition is accepted by all the schools a mammoth tree will be placed on the corner of Superior and State streets. It will be decorated as only a Christmas tree can be decorated and will bear on it presents for every child in the city. A large choir will be formed and will march from a distance to the tree singing carols, and when grouped about the tree will give a short program of carols. Recitations will probably be made by some of the children, and an honest-to-goodness Santa Claus with a few helpers will distribute an orange and a bag of candy to every child present.

A Municipal Christmas Tree is the big feature of the year and celebrations in many cities and has been a universal success and that it would be a splendid thing for Alma goes without saying. It will take the place of the individual Sunday School exercises and trees and will be a fine thing for the children not in attendance at any of the Sunday schools.

Committees

Finance—Charles O. Ward, Henry Soule, Rev. G. H. Carl, Chas. Dutt.

Arrangements—Rev. J. Frank Jackson, Chairman, Prof. A. F. Schultz, C. G. Rhodes, L. A. Sharp, Rev. Wm. H. Mason, Rev. T. G. R. Brownlow, O. H. Washburn.

Sub-committee on arrangements—Mrs. Rhodes, Mrs. W. Roland, Mrs. D. W. Ellison, Dr. Blaisdell, Rev. J. W. Priest, Mrs. Kate Coddington.

Committee on Music

Chairman—R. F. Veatch, G. V. Wright, Miss Sadie Messenger, Miss Bertha McClaren, Miss Mulvey.

The High basket ball men held their first practice Monday night. A big crowd of boys were on hand and the prospects are good for a winning team this winter. Captain Perry has a fine lot of veterans to pick from as well as plenty of new men who have as yet to show their various abilities. A Christmas trip through Southern Michigan will be taken and Albion, Mason and other city schools will be played. If the baseball team is as successful as the football team was Alma High will have a great team.

NOTICE

The new issue of Union Telephone Co. directory will be out about Jan. 1st. Any of our subscribers desiring any change made in their listing of street address should notify the officer before Dec. 15. Anyone contemplating having a phone installed should subscribe now so their names will appear in the new directory.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Big Union Services in Baptist Church November 26.

REV. MASON DELIVERS ADDRESS

Fine Music and Splendid Services are Enjoyed by Large Crowd

Union Thanksgiving services were held by most of the churches in the Baptist church last Monday morning with Rev. William Mason delivering the sermon. He gave expression to some fine thoughts and his message was greatly appreciated by all present. Special music was rendered by the Baptist church choir.

In substance, Mr. Mason's sermon was as follows:

Text—I Chronicles 16:34.
"O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever."

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord. Even a dog licks the hand that feeds it. Yet while it is very common for us to look to God for blessing, it is by no means so common for us to give any adequate expression of our gratitude to God for his wonderful bounty and care. There is an old legend which tells of two angels—the Angel of Requests and the Angel of Thanksgiving—leaving heaven to gather the petitions of men to be carried up to God. Each angel carried a great basket in his hand. The Angel of Requests soon had his basket full and he carried it back to God. But after a long quest the Angel of Thanksgiving had to return to God with his basket only sparsely filled. You say, "That is only a legend." But there were ten lepers who were healed in the old times and only one returned to acknowledge the blessing. We flee to God whenever we are sorely in need of help, but how often do we remember to thank God for the many good things which He is continually enriching our lives? Surely every one can find something for which to give God thanks! Thales, the old Greek philosopher, always thanked the gods for three things—first, that he was a human being and not a beast; second, that he was a Greek and not a barbarian; third, that he was a man and not a woman. While the ground of his gratitude may not have been of the noblest sort, the fact that he was grateful at all is worthy of praise.

Thanksgiving is distinctively an American holiday. As such it ought to appeal to our highest instincts of patriotism. During the last century not a few decidedly un-American influences have insinuated themselves into our American life.

There was a time when America had a sabbath. But today there is a very widespread and insistent movement to replace it with the European Sabbath, which is void of all reverence and all worthy worship and praise.—In view of the all but universal disposition to devote God's day to pleasure and the pursuit of profit it needs to be said with all emphasis that when this nation forsakes the Sabbath and the God of the Sabbath, the day of the nation's decay is at hand.

Thanksgiving is distinctively a religious holiday. It carries in it the thought of God, and God is the most flagrantly neglected factor in our modern American life. Business is too universally barren of God. Much that passes for society is without God. Education too frequently presumes to reckon without God. Even churches, "People's Churches" and "Churches of the World," try to get on without God. In our pride and prosperity we boast of our independence of God. Yet every one is absolutely dependent upon God. The whole world would starve in a single twelve-month were it not for the harvest covenant of the covenant-keeping God. Starvation is only 12 months away from America, the most favored nation in the world. Europe is only six months ahead of starvation. But India is only thirty days in advance of starvation. What does this mean? It means that if there should be just one crop-failure throughout the world the last man and the last woman, and the last child in all the world would perish from hunger in a single year. Where is there room for any pride of independence?

This day ought, therefore, to be kept sacred to worship and praise. It should never be dedicated to unbridled license or unrestrained carousal. If thanksgiving stands for anything, it stands for the public and private acknowledgement of earth's obligation to God, and to suffer this sentiment to be slain in the house of self-gratification and self-indulgence, is to inflict a most serious wound upon the nation and the nation's flag and also to offer an offence to God who has clothed the nation with blessing and graced the flag with glory. Some one

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